

FEASIBILITY STUDY

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NC 34, Elizabeth City  
From Halstead Boulevard (SR 1152) to  
Coast Guard Station Entrance  
Pasquotank County  
R-2244

Prepared by  
Planning and Research Branch  
Division of Highways  
N.C. Department of Transportation

May, 1987

NC 34, Elizabeth City  
From Halstead Boulevard (SR 1152) to  
Coast Guard Station Entrance  
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I. DESCRIPTION

This report covers a preliminary study of the proposed widening of the subject road to a multi-lane facility for a distance of approximately 2.0 miles. This project is included in the 1987-1995 Transportation Improvement Program for feasibility study and/or right of way protection. It is not currently funded. Location of the project is shown on the attached map.

II. PURPOSE OF PROJECT

NC 34 is designated as a major thoroughfare in the Elizabeth City Thoroughfare Plan. It functions as a radial route into the city from the south and provides important access to the Coast Guard Support Center and a municipal airport.

Current traffic volume on this section of road is 8,500 vehicles per day. Beyond the Coast Guard Station entrance, the traffic volume drops to 5,500 vehicles per day (vpd). Estimated traffic volume in twenty years exceeds 15,000 vpd.

The existing facility has a 22-foot pavement constructed on good alignment. According to the Division Right of Way Agent, existing right of way width is 100 feet. However, utility poles are located within the right of way and would have to be moved at State expense to allow widening of the road.

The speed limit along the studied length of road is 45 MPH. A traffic signal exists at the intersection of NC 34 and Halstead Boulevard. Roadside development is a mixture of several uses: residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, and institutional including a church and a university (Elizabeth City State).

The purpose of the project is to provide additional lanes that would adequately handle increasing traffic demands and improve traffic flow to and from major public facilities such as the Coast Guard complex, airport, and university. This project would be an extension of the planned improvement of two-laned Halstead Boulevard between US 17 Bus. and NC 34. Halstead Boulevard is scheduled to be widened to a multi-lane facility in FY 1991-1992 (U-1003).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS

The widening of NC 34 to a multi-lane facility is feasible and desirable. Recommended cross section for the widening is five lanes with curb and gutter (64 feet between curbs). This improvement can be constructed within the existing right of way.

The total estimated cost of the recommended improvements is \$2,600,000, including \$2,550,000 for roadway construction and \$50,000 for utility adjustment. Cost estimates were made by the Roadway Design Unit and Division Right of Way Agent.

#### IV. OTHER COMMENTS

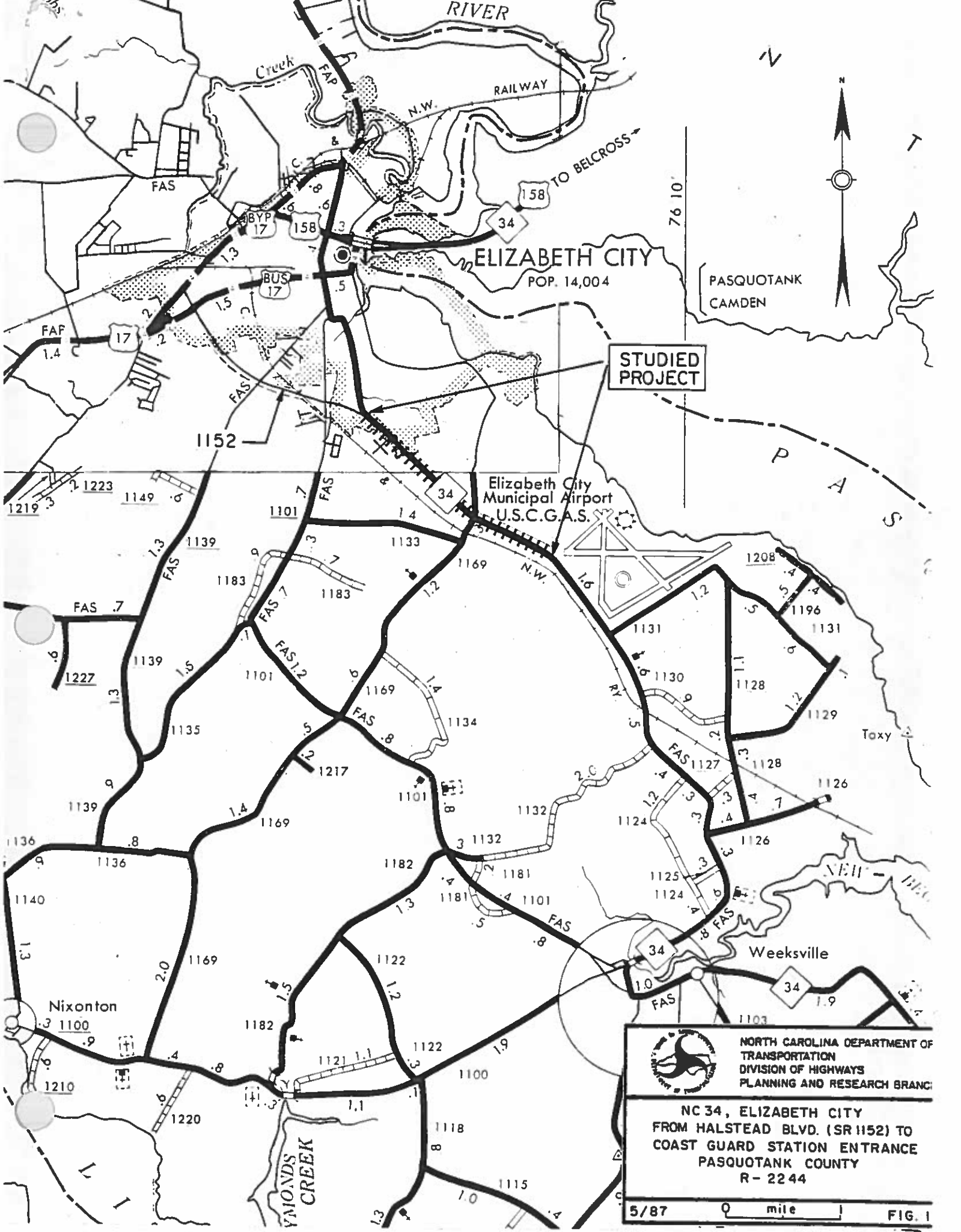
No alternatives to the recommended widening of the subject road were considered.

No significant environmental impacts are foreseen for this project. Some increase in noise levels may result.

According to the Thoroughfare Planning Unit, the project has good local support. Local government should be encouraged to ensure that the existing right of way is protected from further utility obstruction.

This section of road is part of the state bicycle program. Consideration will need to be given to provision of wide outside lanes to accommodate bike traffic.

RGD/rm



STUDIED PROJECT

ELIZABETH CITY

POP. 14,004

PASQUOTANK  
CAMDEN

Elizabeth City  
Municipal Airport  
U.S.C.G.S.

Weeksville

Nixonton



NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION  
DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS  
PLANNING AND RESEARCH BRANCH

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